

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /121 W

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R 070805Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7951

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BM IN BG PK

SUBJECT: NE WIN VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 5736 NOTAL (B) DACCA 1936 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: BURMESE AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS SOURCES HERE CONFIRM THAT NE WIN'S APRIL 20-29 VISIT TO PAKISTAN, INDIA AND BANGLADESH WAS PRIMARILY A GOODWILL TOUR WITH LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT. NEW DELHI AND DACCA COMMUNIQUE GO A LITTLE BEYOND PREVIOUS GUB PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, BUT GUB OFFICIALS WARN US AGAINST ATTACHING TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENTIAL PARTY NOTED GOBD OFFICIALS SEEMED MORE RELAXED ABOUT RELATIONS WITH PRC THAN IN PAST. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT NE WIN'S TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA IS DESCRIBED HERE BY FOREIGN MINISTRY AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS A GOODWILL, "PROTOCOL" VISIT WITH LITTLE OR NO SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT, AIMED AT MAINTAINING NE WIN'S ACQUAINTANCE WITH PRIMINS BHUTTO AND GANDHI AND MEETING MUJIB. MEMBER OF NE WIN'S PARTY (U TIN LATT, DIRECTOR, ASIA DIVISION, FOREIGN MINISTRY) NOTED VISIT WAS SKILLFULLY TIMED FROM
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GUB VIEWPOINT, SINCE RECENT TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON PRISONERS

SPARED NE WIN FROM HAVING TO LISTEN TO HIS HOSTS CRITICIZING ONE ANOTHER.

3. GUB WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO DISPENSE WITH JOINT COMMUNIQUE, BUT GOP AND GOBD INSISTED, MAKING IT NECESSARY TO ISSUE COMMUNIQUE AT ALL THREE STOPS. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE ARE PREDICTABLY BLAND (REFTELS), THEY GO SLIGHTLY BEYOND PREVIOUS GUB PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE ISSUE. THUS, WHILE SUPPORTING IOZP RESOLUTIONS AT UN, BURMESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOTED THAT "THE IMPLICATIONS ARE MANY SIDED" NECESSITATING "REASONABLE TIME" TO WORK OUT DETAILS. AT 1973 UNGA, BURMESE DELEGATE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IOZP PROPOSAL "WILL EVENTUALLY MATURE AND RECEIVE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF ALL STATES CONCERNED."

4. NE WIN-GANDHI COMMUNIQUE "VIEWED WITH CONCERN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA" AND "REITERATED DESIRE FOR ESTABLISHING INDIAN OCEAN AS ZONE OF PEACE." NE WIN-MUJIB COMMUNIQUE ADDED TO THIS FORMULA THE VIEW THAT INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE "FREE FROM BIG POWER RIVALRIES." MFA OFFICIALS WARN US AGAINST ATTACHING TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THESE NUANCES, NOTING THAT COMMUNIQUE WERE DRAFTED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS WHICH MIGHT HAVE PREFERRED TO GO FARTHER. U TIN LATT COMMENTED THAT INDIANS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC CRITICISM OF USG. HE HIMSELF CHARACTERIZED USG AND SOVIET PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AS "CHICKEN AND EGG" PROPOSITION, A VIEW WHICH MOST GUB OFFICIALS WOULD PROBABLY SHARE.

5. TIN LATT ALSO SAID BURMA SUPPORTS GOBD ADMINSSION TO UN (REF B), BUT THAT BENGALLEES DID NOT PROPOSE INCLUSION OF THIS POINT IN COMMUNIQUE. TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, HE SAID, CHINA WAS NOT DISCUSSED DURING VISIT EXCEPT INFORMALLY AMONG OFFICIALS. HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT GOBD OFFICIALS WERE MORE RELAXED ABOUT CHINESE RECOGNITION AND UN MEMBERSHIP THAN IN PAST, REGARDING THESE AS SURE TO COME IN DUE COURSE AND NO LONGER REQUIRING SPECIFIC ENDORSEMENTS BY VISITORS TO DACCA. HE NOTED THAT GOBD HAD TAKEN VARIOUS STEPS AIMED AT PROPITIATING PRC (E.G., RECOGNITION OF HANOI AND PRG), AND NOW CONSIDERS BALL IN CHINESE COURT.

6. ON SPECIFIC MATTERS, GOBD EMBOFF TELLS US THAT NE WIN AND MUJIB DISCUSSED "GENERALLY AND AMICABLY" NAAF RIVER ISLAND-DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND ALSO DEMARCATION OF OFFSHORE OIL

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BOUNDARIES. THEY AGREED TO LEAVE RESOLUTION OF DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT "SOON" BY LOWER-LEVEL OFFICIALS.

7. INDIA-BURMA TECHNICAL COOPERATION, SAYS INDIAN EMBOFF HERE, WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY GREAT INTERCHANGE OF PERSONS. HE SEES INDIAN TEAM COMING TO RANGOON SOON TO CARRY FORWARD DISCUSSIONS ABOUT A PROPOSED MANGANESE DIOXIDE PILOT PLANT TO BE BUILT IN BURMA WITH INDIAN ADVICE, AND OTHER PROJECTS "WHICH WILL NOT BE

LARGE AS TO RANGE OR AMOUNT OF MONEY." U TIN LATT ADDED THAT GOI
IS SEEKING TO PROMOTE INCREASED USE OF INDIAN CONSULTING ENGIN-
EERING SERVICES IN BURMA AND ELSEWHERE IN SE ASIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, RECOGNITION, GOODWILL VISITS, COMMUNIQUE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RANGOO01191
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740110-0094
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740568/aaaaciub.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) NEW DELHI 5736 NOTAL (B) DACCA 1, 936 NOTAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NE WIN VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA
TAGS: PFOR, BM, IN, BG, PK, XO, CH, (NE WIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005